TO: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM CHARTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DATE: 11/30/07

RECOMMENDATION 2: Petitioners for Charter School (System) District status should include/attach a statement ensuring the System will become accredited as a Charter School (System) District or has already received District (School System) Accreditation.

RATIONALE: Chartering is a quality movement that connects higher accountability/expectation with greater freedom. The (School) System (School District) Accreditation process is a quality assurance tool that helps to ensure the capacity within a System to properly utilize additional freedom. The System Accreditation process rests on "Standards for Quality Systems" that have been applied and tested nationally. Tests have concluded that clear evidence of attainment of specific criteria within these standards best ensures that quality services are delivered today and in the future.
1. Vision and Purpose
2. Governance and Leadership
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Documenting and Using Results
5. Resources and Support Systems
6. Stakeholder Communications and Relationships
7. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

A Charter School System in Georgia will be allowed additional freedom. It is incumbent on those who allow such additional freedom to also help ensure that these Systems have the capacity to best use additional freedom.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION/ABILITY TO DELIVER RECOMMENDATION:
SACS (AdvanceED) already partners with our State Board of Education in School Improvement efforts. SACS is accrediting individual schools and Systems in Georgia, across the nation, and around the world. SACS has indicated its intent to provide "Charter System Accreditation." SACS has further indicated that those Systems who have already achieved "System Accreditation" can convert to "Charter System Accreditation" without re-visiting the entire accreditation process. A number of Systems in Georgia, approximately 30, have achieved or will soon be awarded System Accreditation.